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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Buddhist Relief Organisation

Special Consultative Status Granted in 2000

AIM:

Our aim is to provide help irrespective of class, creed or nationality to benefit those in need. International Buddhist relief Organisation continues to support the United Nations through all of its projects and activities.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2000-2003:

- In 2000, in the African city of Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania, our organisation opened a Montessori Nursery School for poor children.
- In Malawi, to assist those without clean water, we managed to dig wells to provide safe and clean supplies, which are now in regular use.
- In Tanzania, from 2000 to date the Tithanddizane Primary Health Care Centre has been established to serve no less than 58 villages. The centre is open and cares for those with AIDS and other serious diseases. Treatment and expansion continues headed by our Project Officer.
- From 2000 to date we have sent in excess of 200,000 spectacles to poor people in Sri Lanka, who have difficulty in providing their own. They are carefully graded and examined by specialists before being given out. Wheel chairs, callipers, crutches etc. have also been dispatched, and this work continues apace.
- In addition, and also in Sri Lanka, we have helped many to build their own houses, giving some financial help, and often using volunteer labour. We have also distributed clothes and provided general medical supplies and equipment.
- In India, in New Delhi, poor children have been helped to learn English with the help of scholarships. Clothes for children have also been distributed.
- From 2000 to date, in Malaysia, in Penang, we have built the Amata Clinic for poor people, in order that they may receive basic treatment. Help continues in the form of supplies of medical items, clothing etc. An old peoples' home has been established and is ongoing. Treatment is also provided for diabetes, heart problems and obesity.
- In the United Kingdom counseling is undertaken with the seriously ill in Hospital including those with mental problems. Free lunches have been provided for the homeless, also Christmas lunches for over 100 lonely pensioners, with pre-arranged transport. Attempts have been made to obtain accommodation for the homeless.
- **In 2001** clothing and other necessities plus outdoor playground equipment, food, toys etc. were transported to Romania, directly by lorry. This was particularly distributed to poor people living in high density flats. Some help was also provided during the Bosnian situation.
- **In 2002** a branch was established in Belarus, in the capital city of Minsk, supporting children with toys and clothes. Earlier we had taken supplies of clothes for students. Distribution still continues after considerable initial difficulties.
- Discussions were carried out in New York with the Sri Lankan President with a view to helping to reopen wards in a new hospital of 150 beds, particularly supplying beds, medical equipment and supplies and setting up a counseling facility to help women having problems with violence within the family. This work is ongoing.
- Where possible UN and UNICEF conferences have been attended in New York and Geneva.

- To date branches exist in Singapore, Berlin, Kuala Lumpur, Sri Lanka, Houston, Texas, Penang, Belarus, Staten Island, NY, Tanzania, Milan, Rio de Janeiro, Geneva, Zambia, India and Paris. These centres have meditation facilities and day to day help is available.

2. Soroptimist International

General Consultative Status granted 1984

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) is an association of four Soroptimist Federations with 91,517 members and 3,159 clubs in 125 countries and territories. As a worldwide organisation for women in management and the professions, SI is a global voice for women through Awareness, Advocacy and Action, and its objects are to strive for the advancement of the status of women; high ethical standards; human rights for all; equality, development and peace through international goodwill and understanding, and friendship. Soroptimist International is committed to service to local, national and international communities and active participation by women in decision-making at all levels of society. The purpose of Soroptimist International is to unite Soroptimist federations throughout the world; to co-operate with inter governmental and other organisations for the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace; to promote the objects of Soroptimism throughout the world. Clubs worldwide work within the same six programme areas: Economic & Social Development, Education, Environment, Health, Human Rights/Status of Women and, International Goodwill & Understanding. The policy of SI is to be concerned with international and national issues that relate to its objects and programmes. On matters of political controversy between nations, of party politics and of sectarian religion, SI maintains a position of strict neutrality.

2. Participation in Conferences and other meetings: SI Representatives have participated in each of the sessions of ECOSOC, numerous PrepComs and sessions of subsidiary bodies dealing with: NGO Committee on the Family; International Telecommunication Union: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS); Commission on Narcotic Drugs; Commission on Human Rights; Commission on Sustainable Development; World Summit on Sustainable Development, JOHANNESBURG 2002; Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice; 10th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 2000; Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); Commission on the Status of Women; UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO); Commission for Social Development; Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Chemical Review Committee and Committee on Agriculture; FAO Council. **SI has also been represented at other meetings and Conferences including:** ILO Symposium on 'Decent Work for Women: Gender Equality, Development and Peace', 2000; ILO Conference, 2000-2003; World Health Organisation Executive Board and WHO Assembly, 2000-2003; Intergovernmental Negotiations on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), 2001-2003; UNHCR 2001-2003; UNAIDS Campaign, GENEVA 2000-01; 8th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America & the Caribbean, LIMA 2000; UNICEF Annual Board Meeting, NEW YORK 2001-2003; 3rd UN Conference on Least Developed Countries, BRUSSELS 2001; UN General Assembly: Habitat II, NEW YORK 2001; International Conference ' The Child: A Victim of War & a Messenger of Peace', ATHENS 2001; Department of Public Information NGO Annual Conference, NEW YORK 2000- 2003; General Assembly of Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), 2000-2003; UNESCO Congress, PARIS 2000; UNESCO Commission on Communication & New Technologies, PARIS 2000,2001,2003; Asian Women for Culture of Peace Conference, HANOI 2000; United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) HIWAIDS, NEW YORK 2002; UNGASS Children 2002; World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia & Related Intolerance, 2001 ; 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, MADRID 2002; UN Children's Fund Executive Board, NEW YORK 2002; NGO Committee on UNIFEM, NEW YORK 2001-2003; 2nd World Congress Against Commercial Exploitation of Children, YOKOHAMA 2001; 11th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, CHICAGO 2000; Global Ministerial Environment Forum of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), NAIROBI 2003. **Special Events included:** World Refugee Day (UNHCR) 2001; International Women's Day, GENEVA/NEW YORK 2001-2003; International Day of Peace 2000-2003; World Health Day 2000-2003; World Environment Day 2001-2003; Human Rights Day 2000-2003; 2nd International Sexual Trafficking Prevention Conference, MOSCOW 2000 - sponsored by Soroptimist International & MiraMed; Conference: 'Is Kyoto Dead'?' LONDON 2001; 10th Commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, 2000; International Mother Language Day, 2002.

Statements submitted include: ECOSOC Statements (Geneva & New York): (NY): E/CN6/2003/NG0/2; ORAL STATEMENTS: Individual and joint oral statements have been made to 44th48th CSW on current themes including trafficking of women and girls, violence against women and gender equality. Joint Statement on the Girl Child to GA Special Session on Children 2001; Joint NGO Statement to ILO: 'Workers in the informal Economy' 2002; Joint Statement to 3rd Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on FCTC, 2001; CONGO International Seminar on Racism & Xenophobia, VIENNA 2001; 11th Session Commission on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice, 2002 - Statement on Female Genital Mutilation and again on trafficking of women and girls.

3. Co-operation with UN bodies and agencies: SI has representatives accredited to ECOSOC in New York, Geneva and Vienna; Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva; UNICEF, New York and Geneva; Special List of the ILO, Geneva; UNDO, Vienna; UNESCO, Paris; Official Relations with the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Rome; and Official Relations with the World Health Organisation, Geneva. In February 2003, Soroptimist International officially confirmed to the United Nations its support for the nine principles of the Global Compact. **SI** has served as a Board member of CONGO from 2000-2003. **SI** is actively involved as one of the five women's NGOs responsible for Project Five-O – a co-operative venture, which began 25 years ago, in collaboration with UNESCO Co-Action. Project Five-O helps women in developing countries with vocational and other training. The representatives have served on various NGO Committees and Working Groups including: World Health Assembly; CSW; Women's Health; UNIFEM: Ageing; CEDAW; Girl Child (UNICEF): Sustainable Development.

4 i) Implementation of UN Resolutions: Soroptimists continue to be a global voice for women through awareness, advocacy and action and by promoting relationships with business, like-minded NGOs, Civil Society and agencies within the UN system. SI members strive for human rights for all, equality, development and peace. They support UN Resolutions through awareness and advocacy especially through their commitment to service in their local, national and international communities, and by active participation by women in decision-making at all levels of society. In 1999 Soroptimist International, as in its previous Quadrennium, adopted the twelve Critical Areas of Concern within the 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' for its '1999-2003 SI Programme Focus'. SI focused further on its six themes of: Women Against Violence; Culture of Peace; Life Long Learning; Women, Science & Technology; Habitat; and Health Throughout the Whole Life Cycle. They pledged to further hone and develop their processes for monitoring, measuring and reviewing individual governments' implementation of the critical areas of concern, and specific actions taken to ensure adequate financial resourcing. Soroptimists worldwide remain steadfast in urging their national governments to ratify and sign the Convention and Protocols on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and support laws granting gender equality. They also advocate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Clubs and **SI** UN Representatives have responded to the UN Special Years: International Year for the Culture of Peace 2000, International Year of Volunteers 2001, International Year of Eco Tourism 2002, and International Year of Freshwater 2003. Work continues in the field of human rights and the advancement of the status of women through the International President's December 10 Appeals. Funded entirely by voluntary donations, our membership works to advance the status of women in need: in 2000 **SI** donated GBP f 100,000 to 'Legacy of Learning', a project run in association with the All China Women's Federation and the Women's Federation of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, designed to fund young girls in Inner Mongolia to complete their six year compulsory education and, additionally, to give them practical skill training in horticulture, animal husbandry and basic veterinary science. The 2001 International President's Appeal, 'Building Peace Among Children', was undertaken in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). SI donated GBP **£96,000** to fund young women to attend seminars to become Peace Ambassadors in Africa. These young women were trained on issues such as multicultural acceptance, tolerance, human rights and the role of children in building peace. Following the completion of their training, they returned to their own countries to run seminars of their own. The **2002** International President's Appeal raised GBP **£111,500** for 'Continuum of Care', a project in partnership with Médecins Sans Frontieres designed to address HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and advocacy for mothers and children in the Ukraine. The 2003 International President's Appeal was 'The Dignity Program', a project in partnership with Project for the People of Paraguay designed to address problems of economic disparity through education, vocational training and job placement for women and families in Paraguay. This appeal has not yet closed. SI also runs international projects on a quadrennial basis. 1999 saw the inception of the SI Quadrennial Project **1999-2003:** 'L'mbs for Life' in

partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross. This project, operating in Afghanistan, Angola and Georgia, aimed to restore human dignity to the victims of landmines; to help them become mobile again and reintegrate into society. It was the most successful Quadrennial Project in SI's history and raised over GBP £1,112,000. The SI Quadrennial Project for **2003-2007** was launched in July **2003.** 'Project Independence: Women Survivors of War' is a joint project between SI and Women for Women International. Operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and Afghanistan, it comprises skills training and leadership development, a micro-credit lending programme, and a sponsorship programme whereby **1,200** women will receive a monthly income enabling them to support their families whilst they participate in skills training.

ii) **Consultations** have taken place between SI Representatives, the SI Representatives' Liaison, (subsequently the **SI** Programme Director) and members of the UN Secretariat in New York, Geneva and Vienna, relating to items of concern being debated by the related UN bodies. Between **2000** and **2003** the SI International Presidents visited and had regular consultations with the Secretariats of the UN and its Specialised Agencies in New York, Geneva, Vienna and at UNESCO Paris. In **2002** SI's President-Elect had the honour of addressing an ECOSOC High Level Segment Round Table on the contribution of human resources development to the process of development. **iii) Preparation of papers and/or other materials at the request of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, or of the UN Secretariat.** A great many communications addressed to NGOs by UN Agencies received full attention by **SI** -whether requests for information, responses to surveys or invitations to nominate experts to take part in special activities and meetings. **iv) Other examples of consultative and substantive activities: ECONOMIC 8 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** SI focused on poverty and the increase in the impact **of** globalisation. Members worked tirelessly across all areas to provide extra support to those economically and socially disadvantaged through gender, disability or social exclusion. The emphasis on productive partnerships with other NGOs and governments in this work has been steadily increasing, viz. SI Papua New Guinea is actively involved in a sustainable development project with the Morobe NGO Kibung, a group of 55 NGOs. Cameroon Soroptimists have developed legal rights education programmes in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of Canada and the International Network of Law Clinics. In a vigorous response to ECOSOC's call in 2000 for the international community to work co-operatively to bridge the 'digital divide' between nations of the north and south, Soroptimists worldwide have developed projects to train disadvantaged women in information technology. **EDUCATION:** SI continued to address the critical area of concern from the Beijing Platform for Action: Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training. Many grants were made to support the education of women and girls, both individually and through school building programmes and the provision of school supplies. Projects in this field ranged from work with street children and child soldiers to education in language and the democratic process. **ENVIRONMENT:** Agenda 21 was the guiding principle of SI environmental activity throughout this Quadrennial period. 'User friendly' versions were produced and many local 'Agenda 21 Committees' set in place. In accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals, SI continued to work towards the provision of safe drinking water by providing wells, supporting water charities, and providing education on good water management. The UN Year of Mountains and World Water Day were actively promoted by Soroptimists through seminars and lectures on relevant issues. Other issues addressed by SI members across the world were waste management, sustainable development and a safe environment for women. **HEALTH:** SI strongly supported the UN Millennium Development Goals: much of its activity to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemic was targeted through its African, Asian and countries in transition clubs. These activities ranged from support for UNICEF initiatives for AIDS orphans and SI educational programmes to translation of leaflets into local languages and supplying milking goats to families impoverished through AIDS. Throughout the world practical projects were also undertaken to address drug abuse, safe motherhood, breast cancer, tobacco free initiatives, Alzheimer's Disease and many other issues. **HUMAN RIGHTS STATUS OF WOMEN:** Human rights are the cornerstone of Soroptimist service: in the UN Decade for Human Rights Education, the focus of SI's work has been on the principle of equality between genders. Projects were undertaken, both in terms of advocacy and action, on trafficking in human beings, female genital mutilation and all forms of violence against women. The President's Appeal is also launched annually on Human Rights Day. **INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL 8 UNDERSTANDING (IGU):** SI's IGU Co-ordinator reports that this area has developed enormously over the Quadrennium, helped by the emphasis put on it by the United

Nations through its Decade for Peace, International Year for the Culture of Peace and recognition of 21 September as the International Day of Peace. Soroptimist members have reached out across national, linguistic, religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries to understand and search for what binds us together rather than what divides us. This 'reaching out' has manifested itself in projects and events as diverse as international children's summer camps, practical and emotional support for immigrants and refugees, a 'Peace-building among the Young' conference in Kenya, and the building of an Interfaith Village in the Philippines. SI has promoted the work of the United Nations at its Federation and International Conferences/Conventions through the use of UN related topics on its agenda and the appearance of UN speakers. The organisation publishes a quarterly magazine, 'The International Soroptimist', (in English, French and Japanese) which is widely circulated to UN Offices. Four Federation magazines also give extensive coverage to the work of the UN and its Specialised Agencies. A further aid to advocacy is the SI book of Position Statements, 'Where We Stand', reflecting our position on current issues. In addition, SI publishes a number of specialised booklets to support the work of the UN, widely used both by Soroptimists and other NGOs, and serving as *a* testimony to the synergy between **SI** Programme topics and those of the United Nations. They include: 'Women Building Better Communities through Partnerships', for Habitat, Istanbul+5, 2001; ' Soroptimist: Making Children's Rights a Reality', 2001; 'Elderly Women: Living at the Margin or in Full Bloom? 2002, for the Ageing Conference in Madrid; and 'Disasters -the Woman's Perspective', for CSW 2002;

3. World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

General consultative status granted 2000

Part I CHANGES SINCE 2000

Amount and / or sources of funding

There has been an increase in the amount of funding, raised through more activity-led fundraising techniques such as sponsored Walks and Treks.

New Organizational Affiliations

The Membership of WAGGGS now stands at 144 countries.

The following countries came into Associate Membership in 2002:Armenia (Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the Republic of Armenia);Malawi (Malawi Girl Guides Association);Chad (Association des Guides Tchad:);Qatar(ScoutsandGuidesAssociation of Qatar);Cambodia (Girl Guides Association of Cambodia).

The following organizations were granted full membership in 2002:Belarus (Association of Belarussian Guides);Estonia (Estonian Guide Association);Honduras (Association Nacional de Muchachas Guias de Honduras);Antigua & Barbuda (National Organization of Antigua and Barbuda; Rwanda (Association des Guides du Rwanda;); Senegal(Association des Guides du Senegal);Burkina Faso (Association des Guides du Burkina Faso)

Part II

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, major conferences and other UN meetings

WAGGGS has a ECOSOC Liaison person in Thailand who attends ECOSOC and other relevant meetings in Asia Pacific and six teams of UN representatives in six UN cities: Rome, Geneva, Paris, Nairobi, New York, and Vienna. These representatives, who are all volunteers, represent WAGGGS at UN meetings relevant to WAGGGS aims and objectives, namely the furthering of girls and young women. Through the UN representatives, WAGGGS is able to network with UN agencies and other NGOs, and in particular cases, the UN representatives have facilitated WAGGGS participation in major UN events.

Since 2000, WAGGGS UN Representatives and representatives from Member Organizations have attended over 350 UN/NGO events, conferences and workshops.

2001

-Prep. Com for the Special Session on Children: June, New York.

-UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS: June, New York

-Committee on the Elimination of discrimination against Women: July, New York

-World Youth Forum: August, Senegal

-31st Session of the General Conference of UNESCO: November, Paris

2002

-UN Special Session on Children – moderated a panel discussion on "girls as their own advocates'. A WAGGS delegation participated directly in the wording of the outcome document: May, New York

-World Food Summit: five years later - organised a workshop involving upto200 participants. A young woman from Burundi spoke: June, Rome

- World Civil Society Forum –Gave a presentation: July,New York

-World Summit on Sustainable Development: September, Johannesburg

2003

-WHO/Asia Pacific Regional Meeting – WAGGS was one of only three NGOs allowed to speak at the meeting: September, Philippines

World Summit on Information Society – co-organised a workshop YWCA on young women and IT. WAGGS also had a display stand: December Geneva

-International Conference of NGOs (UNESCO) – provided guest speaker for workshop on youth and globalization: December, Paris

Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the overall goals and objectives of the UN

WAGGGS' Member Organizations work on all of the MDG but WAGGGS concentrates specifically on four:

- Promoting Gender equality and empowering women
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
- Promoting girls' education

Promoting Gender equality and empowering women

WAGGGS works with girls and young women. From an early age, girls are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills in a safe environment. As young women, Member Organizations provide opportunities for growth and development in a female environment. WAGGGS enables young women to develop their leadership skills at international seminars, such as the Juliette Low Seminar. All of WAGGGS' programmes are focused at promoting the rights of girls and young women as empowered and equal citizens, able to make their own choices and decisions. The current triennial theme 'Our Rights, Our Responsibilities' develops the idea of world citizenship, both individually and in relation to others. It aims to raise awareness about basic human rights and help people to take active and positive responsibility for claiming those rights, not just for themselves but also for others. Through a comprehensive range of support resources, individual members can be empowered to become active and effective citizens in their local and global community

Improve Maternal Health

WAGGGS is working on an advocacy campaign on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in conjunction with WHO which highlights the problems of adolescent pregnancy and the affects of motherhood on the health of very young women.

The campaign focuses on a woman's right to make her own decisions and make her own lifestyle choices through education and information.

Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases

WAGGGS launched the AIDS Badge Curriculum which aims to educate and inform young people about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and how to make healthy life choices, as well as teaching about compassion, respect and care for those suffering from HIV and AIDS. Almost all WAGGGS Member Organizations are working on the curriculum, especially African countries whose phenomenimal and ground breaking work on AIDS have been recognised by Nelson Mandela, Peter Piot and Bill Gates.

The AIDS Badge Curriculum was made possible by combining the resources and research of: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ; World Health Organization (WHO) ; World Bank; United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

WAGGGS is also part of the 'Big 7' youth alliances who, together, are working on combating AIDS in Africa and are hoping to reach 30 million young people. In March 2003 year a forum was held in Dakar where young people met with delegates from UNAIDS and other UN agencies. WAGGGS also runs projects on reproductive health which cover other diseases, such as STDs and many Member Organizations run projects on protecting and vaccinating against diseases such as rabies, polio and malaria.

Promoting girls' education

WAGGGS has always promoted the education both formal and non formal, of girls and young women. One of the six areas of the previous triennial theme 'Building World Citizenship' was on education (report enclosed) and in the new triennial theme 'Our Rights, Our Responsibilities', one of the six rights the organization is concentrating on is 'the right to learn.' WAGGGS works with the Global Campaign for Education and with UNICEF on this issue and signed a memo of understanding with UNICEF in 2003.

WAGGGS' work on Peace

Scouting and Guiding have always been Movements that promoted peace and in the 21"century this is continuing. In 2003, WAGGGS in conjunction with Soroptimist International, organized the 'Building Peace among Children' seminar in Rwanda which trained young African women as peace ambassadors. These women were empowered and educated about child rights, negotiation and peace building skills and are now being funded to run their own peace projects with children in their own countries. The 'right to live in peace' is one of the six rights of the new triennial theme. As previously mentioned the AIDS Badge Curriculum is supported by many UN agencies, as is the Campaign for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.

4. Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

General Consultative Status Granted in 1996

YUVA (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action) is an NGO based in India. YUVA has questioned social structures along the side of the poor, with the aim of empowering them to participate in a process of meaningful change. YUVA holds dear to a vision of society where values are based upon equality, distributive justice and s ularism. These values are free from the chains of caste, class, creed, gender, age, ethnicity and language. Free from all forms of exploitation and violence and a society that demonstrates integrity and respect for democratic polity and processes. To this end YUVA's mission is to empower the oppressed and marginalised by facilitating their organisations and institutions towards building equal partnerships in the development process, ensuring the fulfillment of the human right to live in security, dignity and peace. This involves forging alliances and partnerships with various actors of civil society such as people's movements, academic institutions, and government bodies to strengthen the people's empowerment process. YUVA five core values include gender justice, social justice, secularism and democracy, ecological justice and honesty and integrity. YUVA core purpose being the democratization of society, polity and economy for all women, men, youth and children.

Between 2000-2003 YUVA has undergone tremendous strategic shifts. The shifts established the independent entities namely YUVA Central, YUVA Rural, YUVA Urban and YUVA Consulting, which all focuses on the core competencies. This decentralisation has provided a more holistic intervention in human development, hence improving the performance and scale at which YUVA works.

Each entity (YUVA Urban, YUVA Rural, YUVA Consulting and YUVA Centre) possesses a different agenda, which contributes to YUVA's goals. Within YUVA Urban there has emerged a gradual shift from an entity dealing primarily with issues such as housing and livelihood, in Mumbai, towards a universal urban entity that includes the agendas of urban environment and urban governance. YUVA Rural operates in three states-Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat- on issues of natural resources and the livelihood of the rural poor. Expanding to issues covering basic human rights and social discrimination. YUVA Consulting aims to of provide innovative solutions to achieving sustainable development. In recent years YUVA Consulting has worked to provide aid for natural and social disasters such as the earthquake in Kutch (Gujarat) in 2001 and the communal riots in (Gujarat) in 2002. The entity comprises of three sectors, which include disaster management, environment management and governance and institutional development. The YUVA Centre was established as an expression of YUVA's commitment towards training and capacity building for the strengthening of civil society to address the challenges thrown up by the changing political and socio-economic context. The YUVA Centre was inaugurated on 30th August 2001 and aims to contribute to YUVA's vision of building a humane society through human rights training, enable networking among all human rights groups and provide temporary shelter to women and girls. YUVA has a wide network of affiliations with other organizations, demonstrated by YUVA's contribution to the World Social Forum (WSF) since its very beginnings (2001). YUVA is part of the India Working Committee (IWC) which is responsible for formulating policy guidelines that form the basis for the functioning of the WSF Indian process. YUVA also contributed to the success of the Asian Social Forum in 2003, organising seminars and workshops. In 2003, the South Asian Learning Institution for Human Rights Education, in collaboration with the Asian Learning Institute for Human Rights Education (ASPIHRE), which is a joint venture between the People's Movement for Human Rights Education (PDHRE) and YUVA, organised a five week training programme for Human Rights Educators from the Asian Pacific region.

Other international affiliations include: YUVA is a member of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), a global organization promoting rights to housing;YUVA holds a position on the Board of the People's Movement for Human Rights Education (PDHRE), based in the USA;YUVA works closely with an international organization based in the USA called STREE, that deals with issues faced by women and girls in India;YUVA is a member of the National Alliance of Street Vendors In India (NASVI) and the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL); and YUVA is also involved with the rural networks, Vidarbha Lok Vikas Manch (VLVM) and Development Collaboration Foundation (DCF) in Maharashtra as well as several local, national and international level networks espousing causes that are of concern to YUVA.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE UN:

- In 2000-2001, YUVA joined as a member of the International NGO Committee on Human Rights in Trade and Investment (INCHRITI). INCHRITI works towards strengthening the involvement of the UN human rights system in dealing with economic globalisation and promoting the integration of human rights principles in the formation and implementation of economic policy.
- Assisted in dealing with issues of infrastructure with the poor in Bhabrekar Nagar, Mumbai. This project wastablished by an alliance between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

YUVA participated in the "International Conference on Financing for Development" in March 2002, in the City of Monterrey, Mexico. Discussing issues such as trade and finance to find solutions for the financial crisis faced by the southern countries in the world. YUVA played an important role in the preparations for the conference.

Members of YUVA attended the 8th May to 10th May 2002 "UN General Assembly Special Session on Children," in New York USA. YUVA participated as a member of the India Alliance for Child Rights (IACR), which is a network of Indian NGOs. The IACR worked together with the Child Rights Caucus and other NGOs to produce an 'Alternative NGO Text' on the 19th April 2002 in response to the Draft Chairperson's Proposals published on

the 18th March 2002 in preparation for the UNGASS on Children. In addition, YUVA, HAQ (Human Rights Organisation) and HIC (Habitat International Coalition) worked together to host a side event on the 'Children and Housing' during the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Children. The event highlighted the issues of children in context of housing rights.

- Between the 26th August to 4th September 2002, YUVA attended the "United Nations Johannesburg Summit" in South Africa. The Summit assessed the progress of implementing sustainable development since the 1992 Earth Summit. YUVA played an instrumental role in the preparations of the Summit, including membership of the Human Rights Caucuses and organized various events in collaboration with other organisations in the Parallel Events.
- YUVA participated in the PREPCOM-III (preparation committee meeting) of the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) held in New York from the 25th March to the 5th April 2002.
- YUVA also contributed to the WSSD PREPCOM- IV held in Bali, Indonesia from the 27th May to the 7th June 2002 with the support of the NGLS (United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service). Participating in the Human Right Caucuses, Science and Technology Caucuses, Women's Caucuses and the Water Caucuses and contributing on various issues representing India's circumstance.
- UVA has also been involved in research for UNRISD, published on the 30th September 2002, titled "Synthesis Paper- Partnership for a Better Urban Future." The project was called "Voluntary Action & Local Democracy (UNRISD-UNV)." The project focussed on gathering information about the relationships and collaboration between communities and local governments across nine cities in the world.
- In September 2003 YUVA completed a report as part of the Mumbai Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, providing an alternative report to the 1st India Periodic Report (2002) to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. YUVA's report illustrated a different evaluation of the state of the rights of children in India.
- Also, in 2003 YUVA participated in collaboration with the Mumbai Educational Trust (MET) where they presented a proposal for rural income activity in Maharashtra to ECOSOC.
- YUVA is a keen supporter of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which was established in 2000. To the extent that YUVA has participated in meetings to assist the Indian governments pledge to fulfil these goals, which are also similar to YUVA's goals. For example, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education. In addition, YUVA assisted (2003) in a presentation to the campaign director of the MDG in the human rights panel in preparation for the WSF 2004.
- YUVA attended a regional conference on "Human Rights Education in Asia Pacific: Defining Challenges and Strategies," from 10-12 November 2003, Bangkok. This was jointly organized by the Asia-Pacific Center on Education for International Understanding, (APCEIU) and the Asian Regional Center for Human Rights Education (ARRC), with the support of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA). Following this, on 13 November 2003 at the same venue, was the Asian Trainers Study Workshop, organized by ARRC. The event was supported by the OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) on "Popular and Participatory Methodologies in Human Rights Education for Vulnerable, Disadvantaged and Marginalized Groups," as the fourth stage of its study on the same subject. In both the above conferences, YUVA shared its experience of Human Rights Education programmes undertaken as well as the specific methodologies used for the vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized constituencies it works with.